

Senate Joint Resolution 28
April 16, 2013
Presented by Ken McDonald
Senate Fish and Game Committee

Mr. Chairman and committee members, I am Ken McDonald, Wildlife Division Administrator with Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP). I am here on behalf of the Director to speak to SJ 28.

SJ 28, at its fullest extent, would provide a very comprehensive look at all aspects of wolf recovery and wolf management in Montana, including:

- Status and distribution of wolves in Montana;
- Compliance with Montana's Wolf Management and Conservation Plan;
- Legislation that has occurred that affects implementation of the plan;
- How wolves are monitored;
- Hunting season recommendations and results;
- Known, assumed, and speculated impacts of wolves on livestock, big game, and ecotourism;
- Where we have solid data and where we don't; and
- How this has been and will be funded.

FWP already has much of this information available in weekly and annual reports, and has presented it as part of EQC meetings and Commission season-setting meetings. Just last week FWP convened the Wolf Advisory Council, the citizens group that developed Montana's Wolf Management Plan, to review and discuss much of this. The Council was specifically asked to provide feedback on whether the plan was doing what they expected it to do when it was developed, and whether FWP's implementation of the plan was consistent with their expectations. Although the Committee recognized that federal delisting occurred much later than was anticipated, the members remained supportive of the plan and the manner in which it was being implemented.

With that, if this study goes forward, FWP is prepared to provide information and expertise as requested.